

In the Specification:

Amend the Specification text as shown in the enclosed substitute pages at:

Page 7, line 1;

Pages 27- 29; and

Page 31, line 4.

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1, 12-14, and 15 respectively as presently pending claims to recite the wording stated below; and

Add new claims 18 and 19 respectively as stated below.

Also, in accordance with the requirements of the revised amendment format for 37 C.F.R. 1.121 (mandatory as of July 30, 2003), applicant presents below the text of all the presently pending claims in the instant application. Accordingly, the full text for each of pending claims 1-19 respectively is set forth below.

Furthermore, in view of the explicit holdings rendered by the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Festo* case recently decided on May 28, 2002 [*Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kabushiki Co. Ltd. et al.*, 62 U.S.P.Q.2d 1705 (2002)] concerning the applicability of the legal doctrine of equivalents to